

# ***“Why Wouldn't You?”***

## **Luke 15**

### **Intro:**

One of the primary purposes of the life and ministry of Jesus was to reveal the face of God, to reveal who God is, and what He is like (See **Hebrews 1:1-3**). These three parables are designed by Jesus to, *among other things*, reveal the face of God; the kind of God, God is, to people who had a very distorted perception of who God is.

Behind the scenes of these three parables a storm is brewing, tensions are rising, suspicions were growing about Jesus, suspicions that were in fact the real reason Jesus launches into these three parables.

The Pharisees and the Scribes (**verse 2**) begin to grumble/murmur not just because the people came to listen to Jesus; the real problem was this, *“This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”*

These parables are in fact Jesus' explanation for why He does what He does. It's Jesus explaining why He receives sinners and eats with them.

These three parables are actually a confrontation, because of the question they raise to the Pharisees who are grumbling. The question is this, *“If God is the kind of God who cares about and relentlessly pursues lost sheep, lost coins, lost kids – why don't you, Pharisees and Scribes?”*

### **I. *The Lost Sheep:***

Shepherds, in Jesus' day, were not looked upon kindly, particularly by people well born. Perhaps with the exception of the shepherds of Bethlehem that cared for the Temple sheep.

### **II. *The Lost Coin:***

What kind of God is God? Well, it turns out He is like a shepherd who doesn't mind taking off His royal robes to go stomping through the mud after a lamb that has lost its way. That work is not beneath Him. He is also like a crazy woman who would move heaven and earth to find someone, or something that most would find little value in.

**Application:** So where are you in these parables?